

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity, wherein at least one type of crosslinkable chromophore with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity and optionally at least one type of crosslinkable monomer which does not have UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity are subjected to a crosslinking reaction in the absence of non-crosslinkable chromophores with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity.

2. (Original): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 1, wherein at least one type of crosslinkable chromophores with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity and at least one type of crosslinkable monomer which does not have UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity are subjected to a crosslinking reaction in the absence of non-crosslinkable chromophores with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity.

3. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the microcapsules are produced by the sol-gel method.

4. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the at least one type of crosslinkable chromophore with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity is a monomer of the formula $M(R)_n(P)_m(Q)_q$, wherein M is a metallic or semi-metallic element, R is a hydrolysable group, P is a chromophore with UV-A, UV-B and/or UV-C

filter activity, Q is a non-hydrolysable group, n is 2 or 3, m is 1 or 2 and q is 0 or 1, wherein $n+m+q=4$.

5. (Original): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 4, wherein the chromophore P has the general formula $A-(B)_b(C)_c(D)_d(E)_e-$ which is chemically bonded to M wherein

A is a chromophore with UV-A and/or UV-B filter activity and $-(B)_b(C)_c(D)_d(E)_e-$ is a spacer group in which

B is a linear or branched alkylene group with up to 20 carbon atoms

C is O, S or NH

D is a CONH- group

E is a linear or branched alkylene or alkenylene group with up to 20 carbon atoms and

b is 0 or 1,

c is 0 or 1,

d is 0 or 1 and

e is 0 or 1.

6. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 4 [[or 5]], wherein the metallic or semi-metallic element M is silicon.

7. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 4 [[or 5]], wherein all crosslinkable compounds used for producing the microcapsules are silicon-containing monomers.

8. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the at least one type of crosslinkable chromophore with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity is a silane monomer comprising at least two C₁₋₆-alkoxy groups.

9. (Original): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 8, wherein all monomers which are used for producing the microcapsules are silane monomers comprising at least two C₁₋₆-alkoxy groups.

10. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~, wherein the microcapsules have a particle size of 0.01-100 µm.

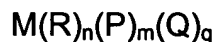
11. (Currently amended): Process for producing microcapsules with UV filter activity according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the amount of crosslinkable chromophores with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity is such that the concentration of UV absorber moieties in the final microcapsule is 10-80 w/w %.

12. (Currently amended): Microcapsules with UV filter activity made obtainable according to the process of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~.

13. (Original): Sunscreen composition comprising the microcapsules as defined in claim 12.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Original): Crosslinkable chromophore with UV-A and/or UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity which is a monomer of the formula



wherein

M is a metallic or semi-metallic element,

R is a hydrolysable group,

Q is a non-hydrolysable group,

n is 2 or 3, **m** is 1 or 2 and **q** is 0 or 1, and wherein $n+m+q=4$ and

P is a chromophore with UV-A, UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity with the general formula

$A-(B)_b(C)_c(D)_d(E)_e-$ which is chemically bonded to **M**

wherein

A is a chromophore with UV-A and/or UV-B filter activity and $-(B)_b(C)_c(D)_d(E)_e-$ is a spacer group in which

B is a linear or branched alkylene group with up to 20 carbon atoms

C is O, S or NH

D is a CONH- group

E is a linear or branched alkylene or alkenylene group with up to 20 carbon atoms and

b is 0 or 1,

c is 0 or 1,

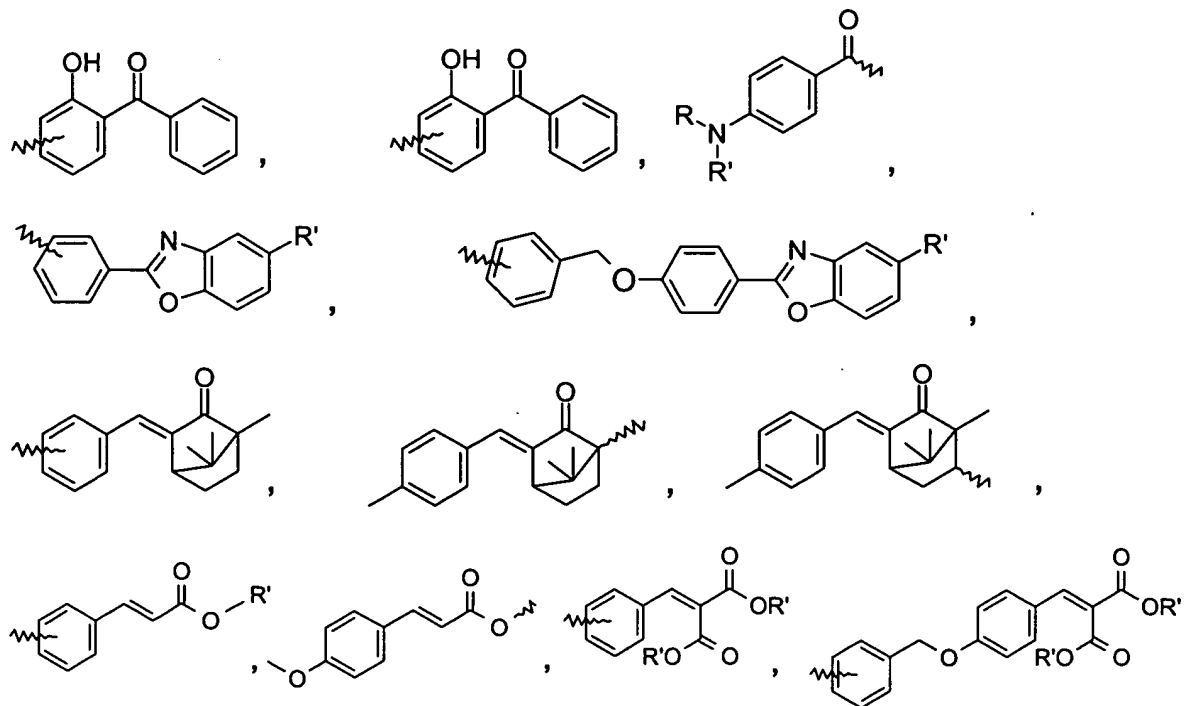
d is 0 or 1 and

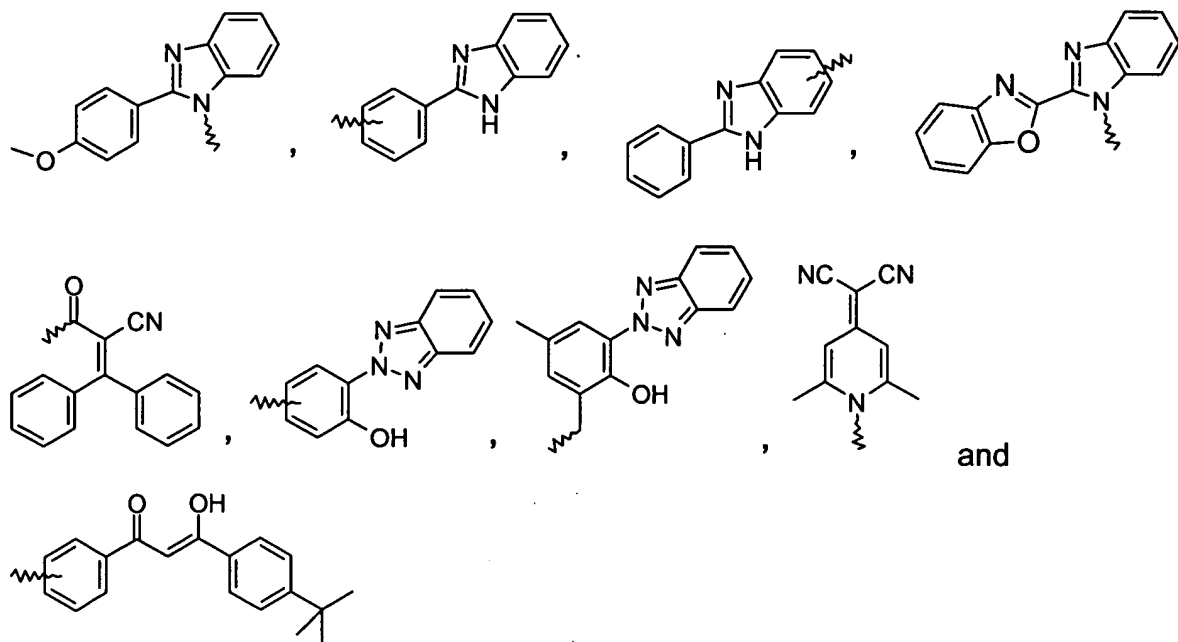
e is 0 or 1.

16. (Original): Crosslinkable chromophore according to claim 15, wherein the metallic or semi-metallic element M is silicon.

17. (Currently amended): Crosslinkable chromophore according to claim 15 [[or 16]], wherein moiety A is a chromophore selected from the group consisting of acrylates, p-aminobenzoates, camphor derivatives, cinnamates, benzophenones, esters of benzalmalonic acid, esters of 2-(4-ethoxy anilinomethylene)propandioic, imidazole derivatives, salicylates, triazone derivatives, triazol derivatives, dibenzoylmethanes, amino substituted hydroxybenzophenones, phenyl-benzimidazoles, anthranilates, phenyl-benzoxazoles and 1,4-dihydropyranes.

18. (Original): Crosslinkable chromophore according to claim 15, wherein moiety A is selected from the group consisting of

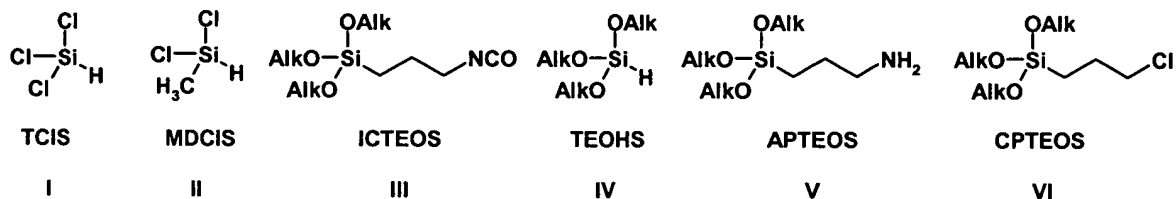




wherein R' is hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched chain C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, -alkoxy or C₂₋₂₀-alkenyl.

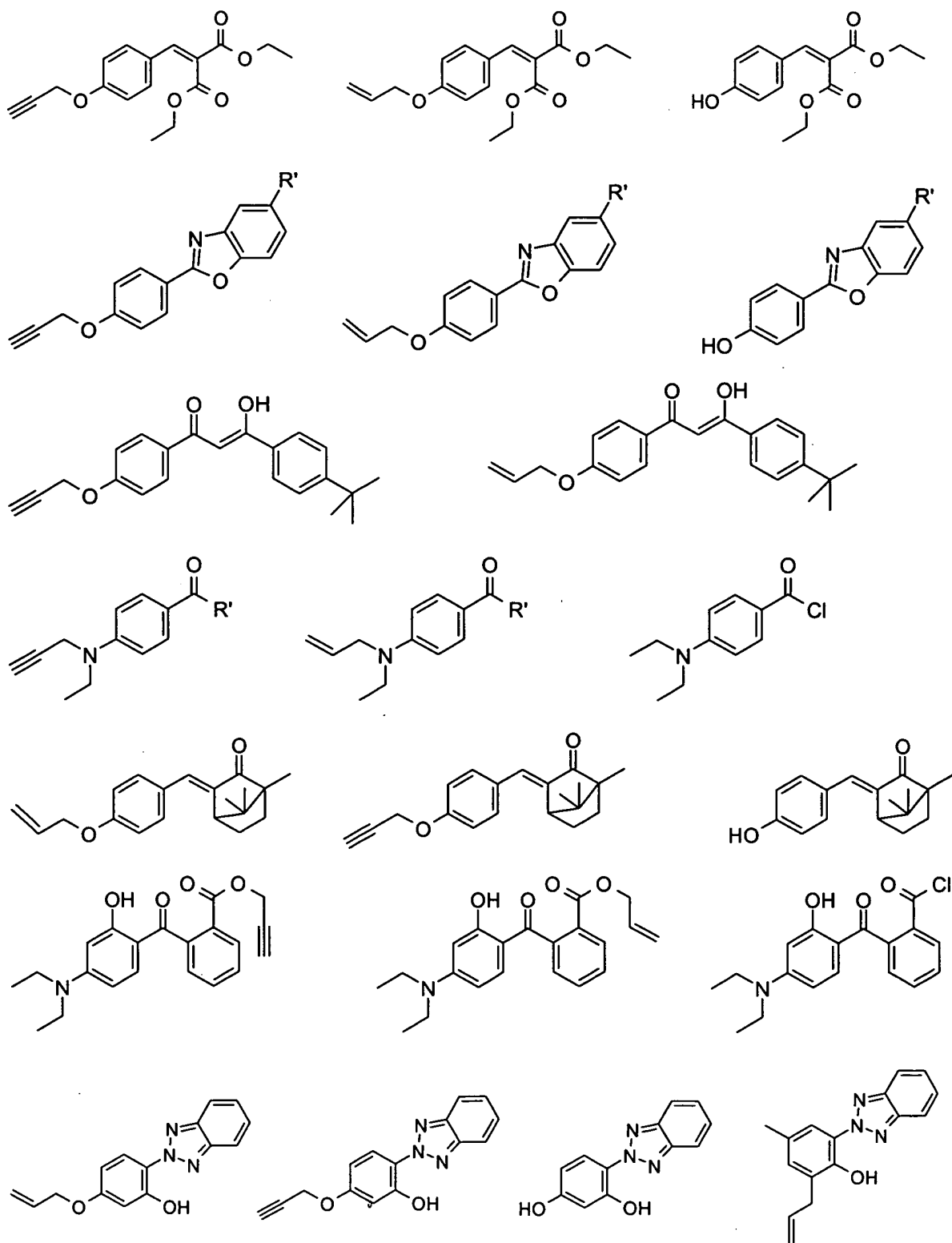
19. (Currently amended): Crosslinkable chromophore according to claim 15 ~~claims 15 to 18~~, made obtainable by reaction of a silene of the formula Si(R)_r(Q)_qS, wherein R and Q are as defined in claim 15 ~~any of claims 15 to 18~~, S is a hydrogen atom, a -(CH₂)_o-NCO group or a -(CH₂)_o-NH₂ group, r is 2 or 3, q is 0 or 1 and o is 1 to 6 with a chromophore with UV-A, UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity.

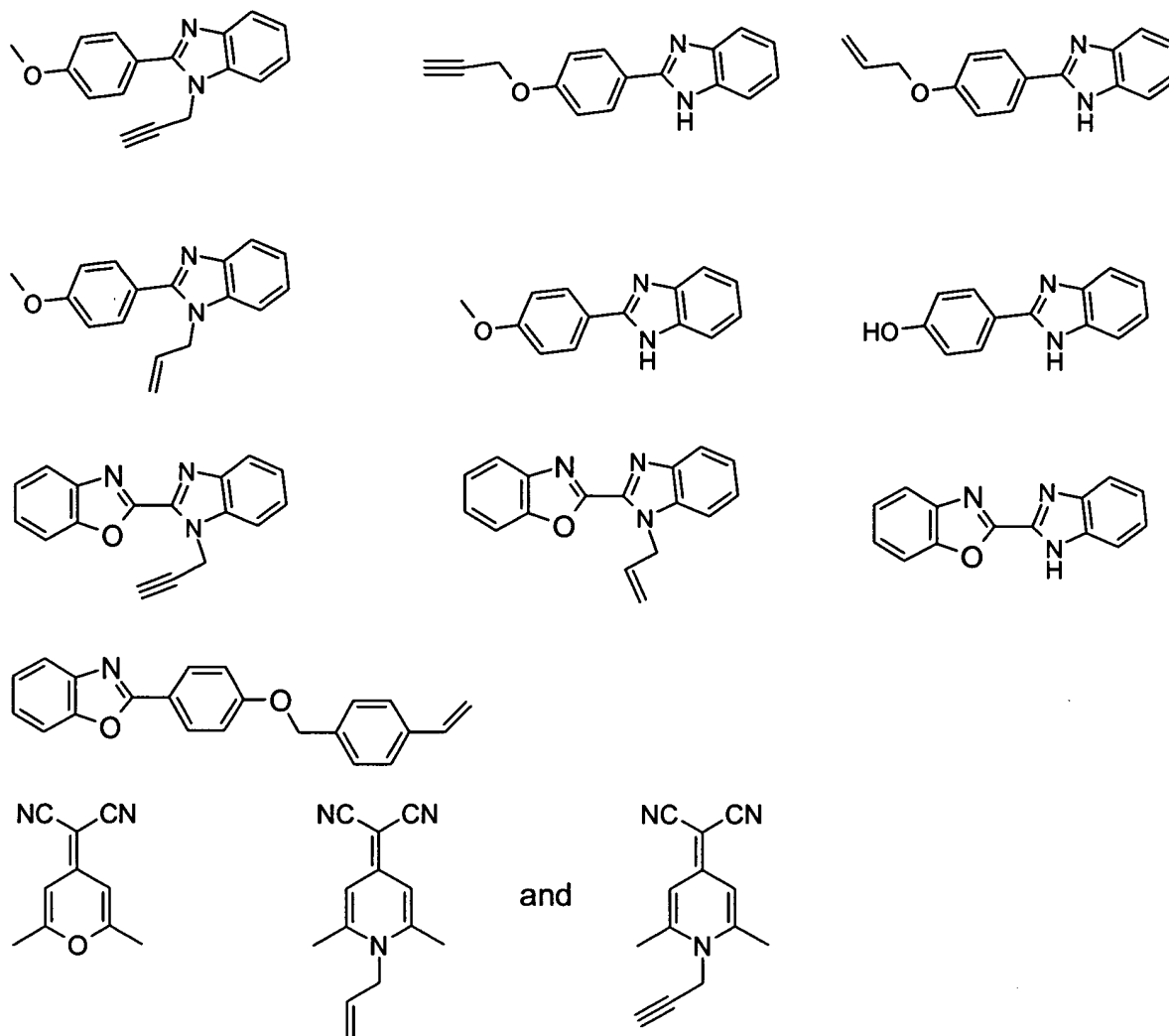
20. (Original): Crosslinkable chromophore according to claim 19, wherein the silane is selected from the group consisting of



wherein Alk is a C₁-C₆ alkyl group.

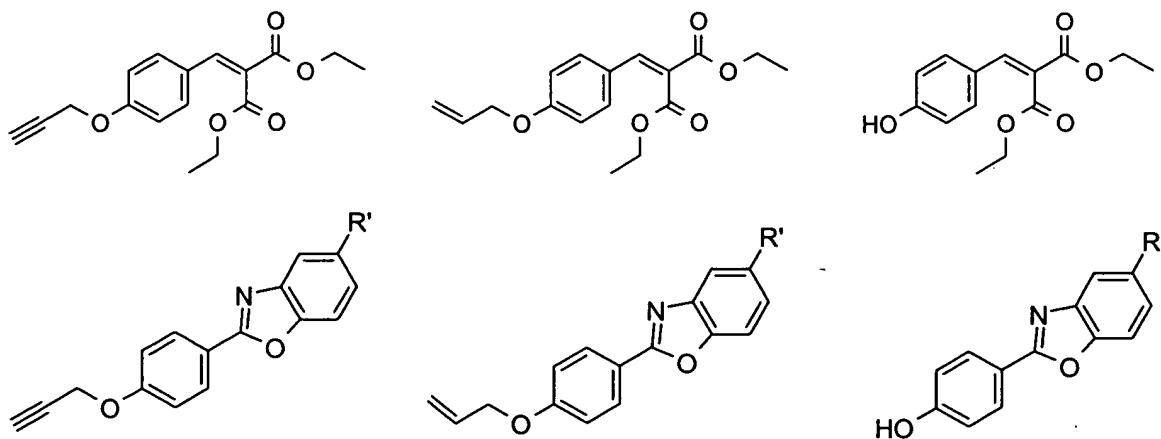
21. (Currently amended): Crosslinkable chromophore according to claim 19 [[or 20]], wherein the chromophore with UV-A, UV-B and/or UV-C filter activity is selected from the group consisting of

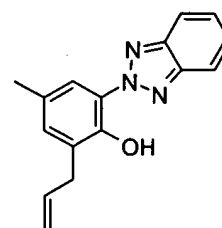
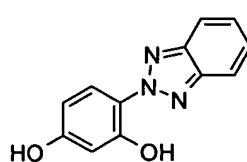
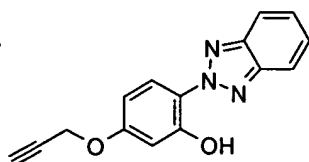
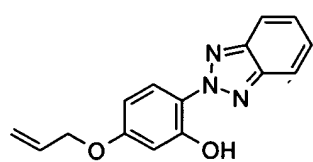
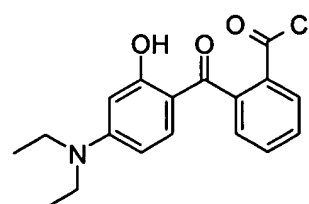
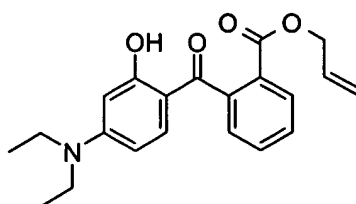
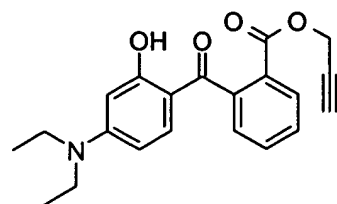
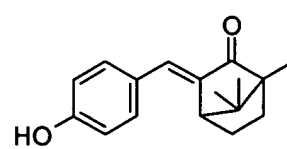
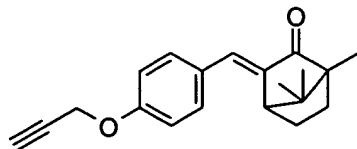
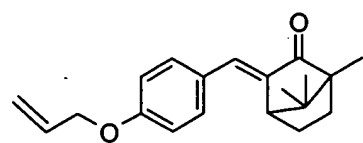
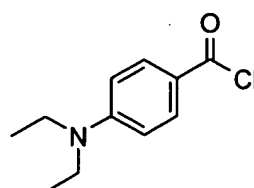
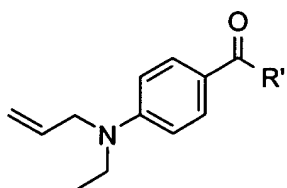
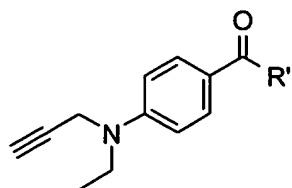
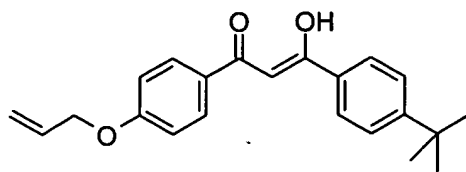
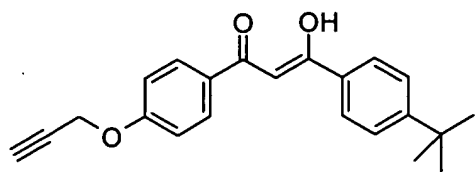


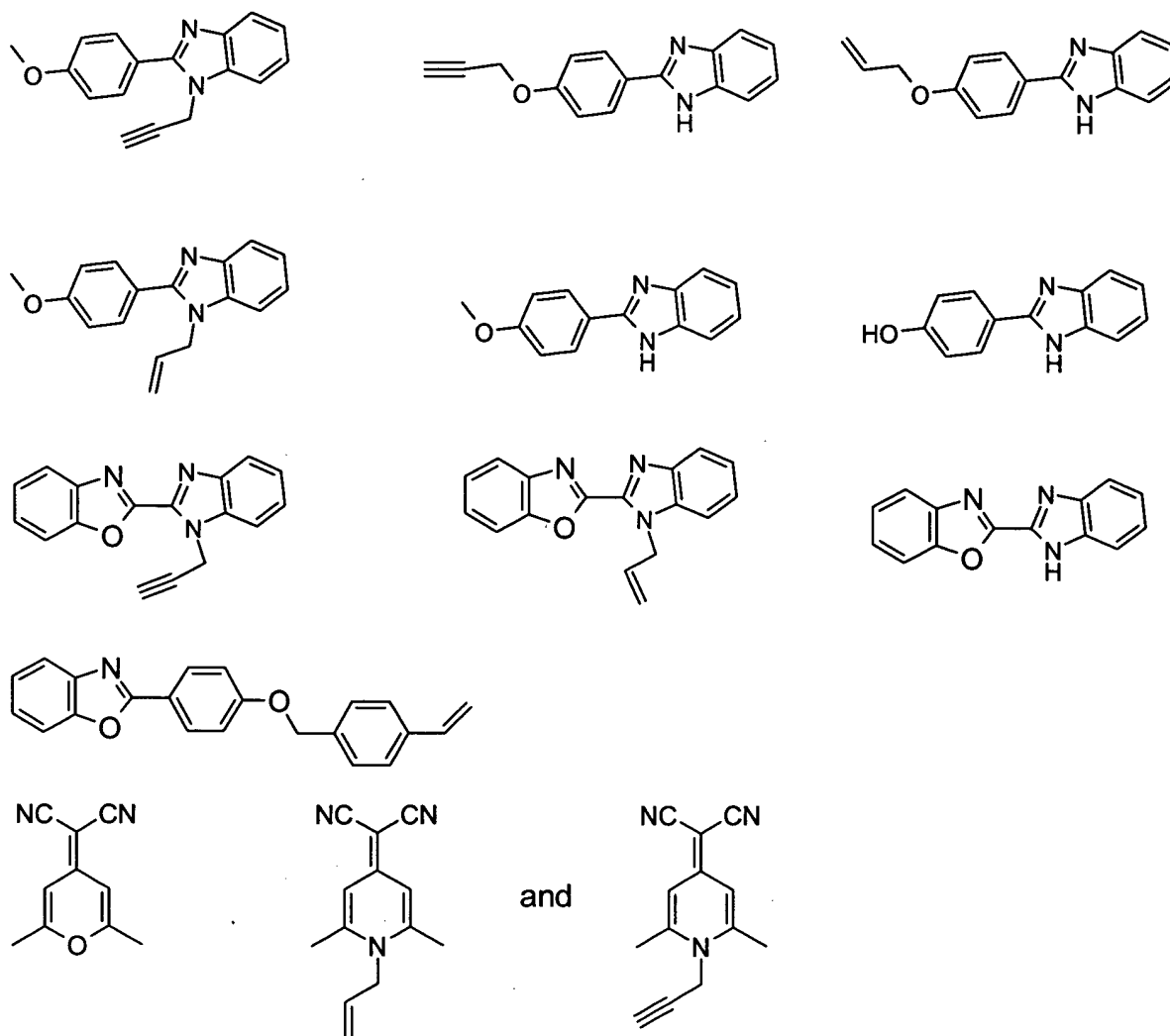


wherein R' is hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched chain C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, -alkoxy or C₂₋₂₀-alkenyl.

22. (Original): Chromophore selected from the group consisting of







wherein R' is hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched chain C₁₋₂₀-alkyl, -alkoxy or C₂₋₂₀-alkenyl.

23. (Currently amended): Process for producing a crosslinkable monomer as defined in claim 15 ~~any of claims 15 to 21~~ comprising the step of reacting a silane molecule with a chromophore.

24. (Currently amended): Process for producing a crosslinkable monomer according to claim 23, wherein the silane molecule is as defined in claim 19 [[or 20]].

25. (Currently amended): Process for producing a crosslinkable monomer as defined in claim 23 [[or claim 24]], wherein the chromophore is as defined in claim 22.